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1682

World's Student Christian Federation.
European Student Relief Series No. 13.

THE WAY OUT.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.—Any Spokesman of College opinion.
Any Relief Speaker.

SCENE.—Every College Meeting on Student Relief.

TIME.—All the time.

The speaker has concluded his address and invites questions. After the usual painful silence, a voice is at last uplifted.

Student. But what's to be the end of it all? We can't go on feeding them for ever. Why don't these fellows get out and *work?*

Speaker. Carefully collected statistics show that every student, practically every student in Poland and Austria, in Latvia and Esthonia, and at least 40 % of the students in Hungary and Germany are doing wage-earning work : that where they are *not* working, it is either because they cannot find work to do, or because they are physically unfit : that the work they do rarely brings in enough to support them while studying.

St. Yes, they're teaching, and that sort of thing, I suppose. But what I want to know is—do they work with their hands?

Sp. They certainly do. There are considerable difficulties, unfortunately, with the Trades Unions. No student, for instance, can get employment as a printer, unless he joins the Printers' Union, and the Unions oppose the admission of "intellectuals." Nevertheless, in spite of all obstacles, the Austrian, German and Polish statistics show students working not only as teachers and tutors, but also as demonstrators in laboratories or clinics, stenographers and typists, clerks, mechanics, wood-cutters, harvesters, casual labourers, farm labourers, night watchmen, coal-heavers, builders' labourers, street car conductors, shoemakers, workers in film factory, film actors, lithographers, musicians in cinemato-

graphs restaurants and cafés, shoeblacks, basket-weavers, navvies, under-gardeners, typesetters and waiters. They are found also in literary work, proof reading, in post offices, in mines, on railways, shovelling snow, in pick and shovel work, and in factories of all kinds. Women students have done waiting, sewing, knitting, dressmaking, embroidery, making preserves, picking and drying vegetables, millinery, fine ironing, reading aloud, convalescent nursing, telephone operating, taking children to walk, and supervising lessons and games, taking charge of hotel linen, canvassing, collecting bills for landladies—

St. Please stop—you make me tired! They work right enough: that's clear, but do you do anything to get them into work of permanent constructive value for their country?

Sp. You'd be interested in the *Czech Student Barracks Scheme.* Czechoslovakia has set a fine example. To meet the housing crisis, our representatives initiated the idea of a Student Colony in Prague. Four million crowns were given by the Government, the Red Cross promised beds and blankets, the city gave the ground, and 500 students worked every day building ten barracks to house 750 students, while women students helped in the kitchen and dining-room which was hastily put up to feed the student workmen. Only students who have taken part in the building will be allowed to live in the barracks. Two hundred Ukrainian and Russian students are building another barracks for their own use. All are receiving two meals a day. No work, No meals, is the motto.

Another very sound scheme was *the Austrian Wood-cutting Camp.* Last summer, for five weeks, 45 men and 12 women students, with one of our Relief Workers as their Commandant, went into camp to cut wood for the Hospitals of Vienna, and to help to clear a bit of forest land for growing corn. They cut and stacked 150 tons of wood, had a healthy holiday and plenty to eat, and started the winter with a little reserve of strength and money.

There are lots of other schemes on hand. Hungarian students have been working in a Textile Laboratory, making up yarn supplied by the Red Cross into cloth; Austrian women students have been employed to knit wool, similarly supplied, into sweaters and jumpers. Our Polish Student Relief Scheme includes a Stu-

dent Workshop; Zürich is running a splendid Foreign Student Co-operative and Russian Student Kitchen; we have assisted numerous Student Co-operative and Book Supply Clothing and Housing Schemes: every student receiving help from us in Turkey and Asia Minor is systematically provided with wage-earning work. Our latest effort is a plan for selling things made by students, carvings, paintings, etchings, embroidery, bead-work, and so forth, in countries where they may be disposed of profitably.

St. A.1. Are you doing anything to get them back on the land?

Sp. As to that, we've all kinds of difficulties with the farmers, who dislike employing students from the cities. But we're going to keep on at it. The first thing we did in this line was :— *The German Student Land Colony.*

The scheme is directed by the Studentendienst, a widespread co-operative organisation for the service of students, which was initiated by our movement in Germany in 1914. The Studentendienst runs several institutions in Berlin and the neighbourhood, for which the farm supplies vegetables, potatoes, flour, butter, milk, eggs, cheese, poultry, bacon, lard, etc. Amongst other institutions supplied are: A student house and restaurant where 400 students dine daily: a small home where four students live and 60 dine, and a hostel where 40 students live and eat. An auto-truck takes provisions from the farm to Berlin, and carries back to the farm all the kitchen scraps from the restaurants to feed the farm pigs. Last summer fifteen students spent some time there digging potatoes, getting good food and air and earning a little money.

In Austria, we have supplied food to the Sonntagsberg Land Colony, a somewhat similar scheme, launched by the Austrian Student Christian Movement, and we are running a breakfast and an evening meal in a small college near Vienna, where women students are trained in scientific gardening and domestic stock-rearing, with a view to the development of intensive agriculture in Austria. We have sent numbers of students to work on farms in their own country or elsewhere during vacations.

St. Splendid: that's the sort of thing we want to help.

Sp. Glad to hear it! But don't forget it costs lots of money to get such schemes going. Capital is necessary to launch schemes, to provide material, and to pay for expert help in training students. Building and farming plans involve outlay for meals and housing. And clothes must be arranged for too. You can't expect men who have only one suit, and no possibility of buying another, to risk the ruin of it. You've got to start them off with working clothes or overalls.

In several countries we are being urged to undertake Student Self-Help plans on a much larger scale, of far-reaching importance for the nations concerned. But we can't touch them unless you give us the means. But you'll do it, for you see as well as we do that to get the educated young men and women of Central Europe into permanent constructive work is

THE ONLY WAY OUT.

Money raised for all such work should be sent through the National Student Relief Organisations in different countries to our Treasurer,

MR. LOUIS HESS,
13, Avenue de Champel,
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March, 1921.

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